REMARKS

In this second non-final Office Action dated June 16, 2005, the Examiner amended the specification and Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-19, 25-33, 36-42, and 44 as requested in the Applicant's previous response dated March 4, 2005. The Examiner withdrew the previous rejections of Claims 10, 11, 25, 28 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. The Examiner also withdrew the previous rejections of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-16, 19, 25-28, 30-33, 36, 37, 39-42, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner further withdrew the previous objection to paragraph 13 of the specification.

The Examiner has maintained the previous rejection of Claims 1-8, 10-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,252,589 to Bjorn C. Rettig et al. ("Rettig"). The Examiner has further maintained the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rettig in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,558 to Gregory P. Hassett et al. ("Hassett").

The Examiner added a drawing rejection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing all of the features in the amended claims. Lastly, the Examiner has asserted that a portion of the Applicant's remarks on page 12 of the Applicant's previous response should be added to the specification. However, it is unclear to the Applicant whether the Examiner is making a new objection to the specification, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify the Office Action.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections under the first and second paragraphs of Section 112. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the previous objection to paragraph 13. In addition, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting an interview in this case to discuss the Examiner's rejections and objections and to discuss allowable subject matter. An interview with Examiner C. C. Chow was

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conducted by telephone on Monday, October 3, 2005, and a follow-up interview with Examiner C.C. Chow was conducted on Wednesday, October, 12, 2005. A summary of the substance of the interview is included in this response.

Claims 1-44 remain pending. In this response, the Applicant has again amended independent Claims 1, 25, 28, and 37, as well as dependent Claims 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 36, and 44, and has added four new dependent Claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention, Claim 45, depending from Claim 1, Claim 46 depending from Claim 11, Claim 47 depending from Claim 25, and Claim 48 depending from Claim 27. The Applicant again respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 1-44. Further, the Applicant respectfully traverses the new objection to the drawings as set forth in this second Office Action. Lastly, the Applicant respectfully traverses any objection to the specification, if any, related to the Examiner's assertion that the portion of the Applicant's remarks appearing on page 12 of the Applicant's previous response should be added to the specification.

As will be set forth in detail below, the Applicant again respectfully submits that Rettig, Hassett, and knowledge in the art at the time of making the invention, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest any technology for dynamically verifying resource module compatibility with an operating system as recited in Claims 1-47. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the features in Claims 1-47 are shown in the drawings in accordance with 37 C.F.R § 1.83(a). Lastly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the portion of the Applicant's remarks appearing on page 12 of the Applicant's previous response is merely a summary of what has already been described in the specification, and need not be added. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons set forth below, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

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Before discussing in detail the reasons why the Applicant believes that the features of

Claims 1-47 as presently presented are not only described in the specification and shown in the

drawings, but are also allowable, brief descriptions of the disclosed embodiments of the present

invention and the cited and applied references are provided in the following discussion. The

Applicant submits that the following discussion of the disclosed embodiments of Applicant's

invention and the discussion of the differences among the disclosed embodiments and the

teachings in the applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of

the claims. Instead, such discussed differences are provided to help the United States Patent and

Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") better appreciate important claim distinctions

discussed thereafter.

Interview Summary

During the interview with Examiner C. C. Chow that was conducted by telephone on

Monday, October 3, 2005, and concluded in a follow-up interview on Wednesday, October, 12,

2005, the Applicant and the Examiner discussed issues relating to the rejections of independent

Claims 1, 25, 28, and 37, and dependent Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being

anticipated by Rettig. Also discussed were issues relating to the objection to the drawings under

37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), in particular Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C.

The Applicant and the Examiner did not reach an agreement with regard to allowable

subject matter. However, it was the Applicant's understanding that the Examiner suggested that

independent Claim 25 might be allowable as currently amended, at least in part because it recites

a limitation for a request to load a language-specific resource from alternate resource modules

that correspond to a selected interface language. The Examiner further suggested that

independent Claims 1, 28, and 37 might also be allowable if the resources and alternate resource

modules from which the resources are loaded were limited to language-specific resources and

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modules. In particular, the Examiner suggested that Claim 1 might be allowable if amended to

include the limitations in Claim 2 wherein the alternate resource module corresponds to a

selected interface language and the resource modules are language specific. Similar

amendments were suggested for Claims 28 and 29, and Claims 37 and 38.

In response to the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant respectfully declines at this time

to amend independent Claims 1, 28, and 37 to include the limitations in the respective dependent

Claims 2, 29, and 38. The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the independent Claims 1,

25, 28, and 37 are allowable as currently amended, and that nothing in the principal cited

references of Rettig and Hassett, or in the rejections set forth in the Examiner's Office Action,

would require independent Claims 1, 28, and 37 to be so limited.

Disclosed Embodiments

As set forth in the above-referenced application, the present invention provides a method

for dynamically verifying the compatibility of an alternate resource module with an operating

system. In accordance with the method, a resource loader receives a request to load a resource

from an alternate resource module, where the alternate resource module corresponds to a specific

interface that has been localized for one of the multiple languages supported by the system, e.g.,

Chinese. The resource loader obtains the resource content of the default resource module from

which the alternate resource module was localized, as well as the resource content of the current

default resource module.

Since both the default and current default resource modules contain resources written in

the same default language, typically English, the resource content will be the same if they are at

the same upgrade level. If they are at the same upgrade level, then of course they are

compatible, and any alternate resource modules localized from that default resource module may

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be safely loaded. If they are not at the same upgrade level, then the alternate resource module

may or may not be compatible with the operating system.

When the default and current default resource modules are not at the same upgrade level,

the content of their resources might still be the same if the specific interface that the resources

represent, i.e., the menus, windows, dialog boxes, etc., did not change as a result of the upgrade.

In a typical embodiment, the default resource module includes an identifier including the version

information of the operating system version with which the default resource module is

compatible. Although unlikely, the default resource module may be at a higher upgrade level

than the operating system's current default resource module. The more typical scenario is when

the default resource module is at the same or lower upgrade level than the operating system's

current default resource module.

Accordingly, in the disclosed embodiments, the resource loader compares the resource

content of the default resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized

with the resource content of the current default resource module. If the content is the same, then

any of the alternate resource modules, such as alternate resource modules in Chinese, French,

etc., are still compatible with the operating system and may be safely loaded. Otherwise, the

alternate resource modules may no longer be compatible, and may not be safely loaded, most

likely due to an operating system upgrade that changed the specific interface.

To facilitate the comparison of the resource content of the default and current default

resource modules, in a disclosed embodiment of the present invention, each of the resource

modules include a unique number that represents and identifies the resource content contained

within the resource module. For example, in one of the disclosed embodiments the unique

numerical identifier is a checksum of the resource contents within the resource module or, in the

case of the alternate resource modules, a checksum of the resource contents of the default

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resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized. This unique number may be used to quickly verify whether the resource content of a default and current default resource module are the same and, therefore, whether resources from the alternate resource modules that were localized from the default resource module are compatible and safe to load.

The checksum is based only on the resource content of a resource module. During the generation of the checksum, code and version information are excluded in the generation process, because a resource module may be updated with changes to its code or version number without any change to the resource content. This may be the case, for example, when a specific interface, such as a particular menu or dialog box, remains unchanged from one version of the operating system to the next, even though some of the underlying code may have changed.

To facilitate the determination of whether a resource is compatible with the operating system, in a disclosed embodiment of the present invention, the resource loader may also check the version information included in the resource modules. In the disclosed embodiments, the version information is typically the operating system version with which the module is compatible. If the version information of the current default and alternate resource modules matches, then the resources of the alternate resource module are considered compatible with the operating system. But if the version information of the current default and alternate resource modules does not match, then additional checking to determine compatibility is performed.

In the disclosed embodiments, the determination of whether a resource is compatible with the operating system may be further facilitated by tracking compatibility information for the resource modules by their respective version information. The compatibility information may then be later retrieved by the resource loader to quickly determine resource compatibility whenever the version information of the current default and alternate resource modules does not match. When compatibility information for the resource modules by their respective version

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information is not available, i.e., when compatibility information has not already been tracked

for a resource module, then the resource loader may compare the resource content of the default

resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized with the resource

content of the current default resource module, typically by using a checksum of the respective

resource contents when available, including generating the checksum when necessary.

Summary of Principal References Cited

As the Applicant noted previously, the Rettig reference is commonly assigned to the

assignee of this application, and describes certain aspects of an operating system that provides

multilingual support. In particular, Rettig describes an operating system that provides for

automatic redirection to the appropriate language-specific resources based on the user-selected

language. In referring to appropriate language-specific resources, Rettig is referring to a

resource that is in the user-selected language, and not in some other language that would be

inappropriate for that user. Rettig does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing the resource

contents of the underlying default and current default resource modules and loading the

requested resource from the alternate resource module when the resource content is the same.

Hassett discloses a method of distributing information to multiple client devices on a

network in which the use of a particular type of algorithm is used to compute a checksum,

namely the message digest algorithm known as MD5. Nothing in Hassett describes, teaches, or

suggests anything remotely related to multiple language user interfaces or operating systems that

support multiple languages.

Objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

The Examiner has indicated that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

was added "due to the amended claims." The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

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The Applicant notes that the original Claim 1 also recited comparing the resource contents, and there is nothing in the amendment of Claim 1 that would require a change in the

drawings. Claim 1 as currently amended recites as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically verifying resource compatibility

with an operating system, the method comprising:

obtaining a request to load a resource from an alternate resource module, wherein the

alternate resource module corresponds to a selected interface of an operating system;

obtaining a first resource content of a default resource module from which the alternate

resource module was localized;

obtaining a second resource content of a current default resource module;

determining whether the alternate resource module is compatible with the operating

system based on comparing the first resource content and the second resource content; and

loading the requested resource from the alternate resource module if the alternate

resource module is compatible with the operating system first resource content is the same as the

second resource content.

As noted in the Applicant's previous response, and as acknowledged by the Examiner,

Claim 1 was amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which the Applicant regards as the invention. As is readily apparent from the amendment, rather

than repeating the limitation on the originally claimed resource content "of a default resource

module from which the alternate resource module was localized," the amended claim instead

recites the "first resource content." Likewise, rather than repeating the limitation on the resource

content "of a current default resource module," the amended claim instead recites the "second

resource content." Thus, "resource content" is recited in Claim 1 as originally presented and as

amended.

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The Examiner further asserts that the "current drawing doesn't show all of the features in the amended claims." The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In support of the rejection of the drawings, the Examiner asserts that amended Claim 1 recites comparing the resource contents, but FIGURE 2A shows comparing resource modules. In response, the Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner should review instead FIGURE 2B. FIGURE 2B and the accompanying written description in the specification makes it clear that the comparison is between the resource content of the default and current default resource modules. For example, the Applicant's specification describes the comparison illustrated in FIGURE 2B as follows:

At decision block 216 the resource loader 72 uses the compatibility information stored in the registry resource version database 74 to determine whether or not the version of the alternate resource modules 82 is compatible with the version of the default resource module 76. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the resource compatibility information field in the registry resource version database 74 is a Boolean data type that can store true and false values. The compatibility information field is used to store a true value if the resource content of the current default resource module is compatible with the resource content of the default resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized. Similarly, the compatibility information field is used to store a false value if the resource content of the current default resource module is not compatible with the resource content of the default resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized. To determine resource compatibility, the resource loader 72 retrieves the compatibility information stored as a true or false value in the registry resource version database 74 for the version of the alternate resource modules 82 and the version of the default resource module 76.

If, at decision block 216 shown in FIGURE 2B, the compatibility information retrieved from the registry resource version database 74 is evaluated as being true, then the current default resource module is compatible with the version of the alternate resource modules 82. In this case, where the resources are compatible, routine 200 proceeds to block 218 and the resource loader 72 loads the resource from the alternate resource modules 82. If at decision block 216, the compatibility information retrieved from the registry resource version database 74 is evaluated as being false, then the current default resource module is not compatible with the version of the alternate resource modules 82. In this case where the resources are not compatible, routine 200 proceeds to block 220 and the resource loader 72 loads the resource from the default

LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC} 1420 Fifth Avenue Suite 2800 Seattle, Washington 98101 206.682.8100 resource module 76. After loading the resource from the appropriate resource module, routine 200 terminates at block 222.(Application Specification, page 16, ln. 2-28, emphasis added).

The Applicant notes that, in any event, the Examiner's reference to a comparison in FIGURE 2A is misplaced, as that comparison merely refers to the comparison of the version information associated with the current default and alternate resource modules, and not the resource content of the default and current default resource modules that is shown and described in FIGURES 2B - 2C. The version information that is being compared in the disclosed embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 2A is typically a version number of the operating system. As indicated in the Specification on page 14, lines 14-16, with reference to decision block 208 in FIGURE 2A "[b]ecause no changes in the version numbers of the default and alternate resource modules were found, no updates were applied and no further processing is necessary to verify that the resources are compatible." Thus, when the version number comparison illustrated in FIGURE 2A is true, then it is not necessary to determine compatibility of the alternate resource module with the operating system by comparing the resource contents of the default and current default resource modules as described in FIGURES 2B - 2C.

With respect to the Examiner's reference to Claim 11, the features mentioned are shown in FIGURES 2B and 2C in the creating and updating of a database to indicate that the alternate and default resource modules are compatible. With respect to the Examiner's reference to Claim 12, the feature of tracking compatibility information is shown in FIGURES 2B -2C. In addition, the feature of an information store is shown in FIGURE 1 in the registry resource version database, reference number 74. The Applicant notes that the description of the disclosed embodiments in the specification makes clear that the compatibility information is typically stored in an information store such as the registry resource version database 74 for the purpose of tracking such information. For example, on Page 15, lines 2-5, the specification reads, "[a]t decision block 216 the resource loader 72 uses the compatibility information stored in the

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registry resource version database 74 to determine whether or not the version of the alternate

resource modules 82 is compatible with the version of the default resource module 76."

With respect to the Examiner's reference to the "processing sequence" in Claim 25 as

compared to Claims 1, 28, and 37, the Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner's

concerns with respect to "processing sequence" are misplaced. The Applicant is not aware of

any "processing sequence" limitations with respect to those claims and respectfully requests that

the Examiner clarify what is meant by "processing sequence." The Applicant does note,

however, that the description of the disclosed embodiments makes it clear that determining

whether there are changes in the version numbers may indicate whether it is even necessary to

determine compatibility of the alternate resource modules with the operating system. For

example, on Page 14, lines 14 - 16, the specification reads "[b]ecause no changes in the version

numbers of the default and alternate resource modules were found, no updates were applied and

no further processing is necessary to verify that the resources are compatible."

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw

the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Rejection of Claims 1-8, 10-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rettig

The Examiner has again cited numerous passages from Rettig to support a rejection of

Claims 1-8, 10-44 as anticipated by Rettig. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Applicant notes that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-8, 10-44 under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e) in this second non-final Office Action appear to be identical to the rejections that the

Examiner made in the first Office Action dated December 4, 2004. In response, the Applicant

respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all of the remarks in support of the Applicant's

previous traversal of those rejections as set forth in the Applicant's previous response dated

March 4, 2005.

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Suite 2800 Seattle, Washington 98101 206.682.8100 In this response, the Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 25, 28, and 37 to

more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as

the invention. Dependent Claims 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 36, and 44 have also

been amended, and four new dependent Claims 45 - 48 have been added as well to more

particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the

invention.

The Applicant notes that in response to the Examiner interview, the Applicant is currently

amending some of the recitations of "default" resource module back to "alternate" resource

module as originally claimed to avoid confusion. New Claim 45 depends from Claim 1 and is

supported in the disclosed embodiments of the invention that compare the resource contents of

the resource modules to determine compatibility. New Claim 46 depends from Claim 11 and is

supported in the disclosed embodiments of the invention that track compatibility information

indicating whether resource contents of the resource modules are the same, and uses the

compatibility information to determine compatibility. New Claim 47 depends from Claim 25

and is also supported in the disclosed embodiments of the invention that track compatibility

information indicating whether resource contents of the resource modules are the same. Lastly,

new Claim 48 depends from Claim 27 and is supported in the disclosed embodiments of the

invention that load a requested resource from the alternate resource module when the alternate

resource module is compatible with the operating system and from the current default resource

module when it is not.

The Applicant further urges the Examiner to reconsider the Examiner's reliance on the

passage in Retting at Col. 3, lines 7-17, that describes a Windows operating system that supports

language specific libraries, such as those used to generate text messages in the current language

based on a variable that indicates the user's locale. The Examiner again contends that the

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requirement that the application that generates such a text message "identify precisely the appropriate language resource and where it is located" is equivalent to the limitations recited in Claim 1 of obtaining and comparing the resource contents of the default and current default resource modules. The Applicant again must respectfully disagree.

Independent Claim 1, as currently amended now recites as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically verifying resource compatibility with an operating system, the method comprising:

obtaining a request to load a resource from an alternate resource module, wherein the alternate resource module corresponds to a selected interface of an operating system;

obtaining a first resource content of a default resource module from which the alternate resource module was localized;

obtaining a second resource content of a current default resource module;

determining whether the alternate resource module is compatible with the operating system based on comparing the first resource content and the second resource content; and

loading the requested resource from the alternate resource module if the <u>alternate</u> resource module is compatible with the operating system first resource content is the same as the second resource content.

As noted above, in referring to appropriate language-specific resources, Rettig is referring to a resource that is in the user-selected language, and not in some other language that would be inappropriate for that user. Identifying an appropriate language resource and where it is located is not the same as determining whether the alternate resource module is compatible with the operating system based on the first resource content and the second resource content as recited in Claim 1. Identifying an appropriate language resource and where it is located as used in Rettig merely refers to identifying one language from another, e.g.,

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identifying a Chinese language resource from a French language resource, by using a variable that indicates the user's locale, e.g., whether the user is in China or in France. Whether a resource is appropriate for a user because it is in the user-selected language is not the same as whether a resource is compatible with the user's operating system. The Applicant searched but could not find any indication that Rettig discloses comparing the contents of resource modules to determine the compatibility of a resource with the operating system, regardless of whether that resource is language-specific and in a language that is appropriate for that user. The appropriateness of a language resource for a particular user and where the resource is located is simply irrelevant to whether the resource is compatible with the operating system, for language-specific resources or any other type of resource. Accordingly, Rettig does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing the resource contents of the underlying default and current default resource modules and loading the requested resource from the alternate resource module when the resource content is the same, i.e., when the resource is compatible with the operating system.

With reference to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 11, the Applicant further urges the Examiner to reconsider the Examiner's reliance on Figure 4 and the passage in Rettig at Col. 4, lines 31-32, which states that "[a] resource handler 230 is used by a process 210 to obtain access to a resource datum 220." The Examiner contends that the "resource datum 220" described in Rettig includes "compatibility information" as recited by the Applicant in Claim 11. The Applicant must respectfully disagree.

The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Rettig at Col. 4, lines 38 - 40, which uses the same reference number 220 to make clear that resource datum 220 is actually a resource that is loaded from a resource module into memory by the operating system. Specifically, Rettig states at Col. 4, lines 38 - 40, that "[t]he resource hander 230 may need to load the resource 220, possibly included in a module 250, into memory...." The Applicant

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resource datum 220 includes compatibility information as recited by the Applicant in Claim

11, such as the compatibility information that is stored in a registry resource version database as

Boolean data types containing true or false values as described in the disclosed embodiments

(Applicant's Specification, Page 16, lines 5-8).

With reference to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 12, citing the same passage in Rettig

at Col. 4, lines 31-32, the Examiner further contends that "resource datum 220" has the same

function as the "information store" as recited in Claim 12. The Applicant must again

respectfully disagree.

The Applicant again directs the Examiner's attention to Rettig at Col. 4, lines 38 - 40, in

which the resource datum 220 is described as merely a resource to be loaded from a resource

module into memory by a resource handler. Nothing in the description of resource datum 220

in Rettig suggests that Rettig's resource datum 220 also functions as an information store as

recited by the Applicant in Claim 12, such as a registry resource version database in which is

stored compatibility information as described in the disclosed embodiments (Applicant's

Specification, Page 16, lines 5-8).

With reference to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 13, it is unclear to the Applicant

whether the Examiner is making a rejection under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Rettig,

and/or a rejection under Section 103. Therefore, the Applicant requests that the Examiner clarify

the rejection so that the Applicant may respond appropriately. In any event, the Applicant

submits that Claim 13 is allowable at least in part because it depends from allowable independent

Claim 1 as set forth above, and because of addition limitations recited in Claim 13.

With reference to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 18, the Examiner asserts that "the

resource datum can also include all the update information," without citing where in Rettig such

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an assertion about the resource datum 220 would be supported (Office Action, Page 12).

Therefore, the Applicant requests that the Examiner clarify the rejection, and particularly what is

meant in the use of the term "update information" so that the Applicant may respond

appropriately. In any event, the Applicant submits that Claim 18 is allowable at least in part

because it depends from allowable independent Claim 1 as set forth above, and because of

addition limitations recited in Claim 18.

The remaining independent Claims 25, 28, and 37 recite similar limitations as recited in

Claim 1, and are clearly and patentably distinguishable over Rettig for the same reasons set forth

in the discussion of Claim 1. In addition, Claim 25 recites similar limitations as recited in

Claims 11-13, and is clearly and patentably distinguishable over Rettig for the same reasons set

forth in the discussion of Claims 11-13.

The Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-24, 26-27, 29-36, and 38-47 are

allowable at least in part because they depend from allowable independent Claims 1, 25, 28, and

37, and because of their additional limitations. Consequently, reconsideration and allowance of

Claims 1-8, 10-47 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rettig in view of Hassett

The Examiner again asserts that Hassett is analogous prior art, and that it teaches the use

of the MD5 message digest algorithm, and that it would have been obvious to combine the

teaching of Rettig and Hassett to obtain a checksum value calculated using and MD5 message

digest algorithm as recited in Claim 9. The Applicant again respectfully disagrees and reasserts

the Applicant's previous argument opposing the Examiner's rejection of Claim 9 as set forth in

the Applicant's previous response dated March 4, 2005. The Applicant respectfully submits that

Claim 9 is also allowable at least in part because it depends from allowable independent Claim 1,

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and because of the additional limitations in Claim 9. Consequently, reconsideration and allowance of Claim 9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna J. Coningsby

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

1/w. 4, 2005

DJC:sbk